



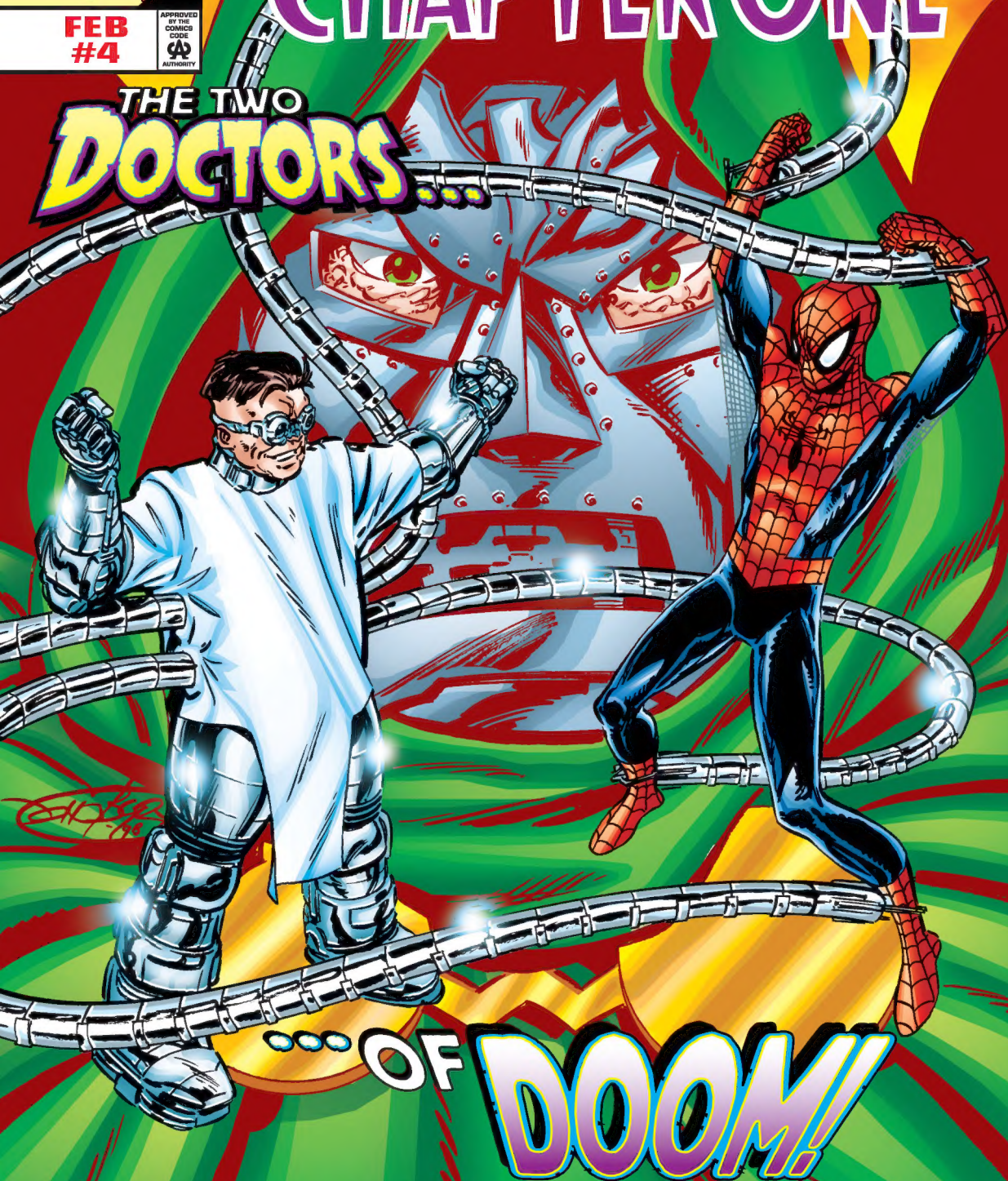
FEB
#4

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

SPIDER-MAN

CHAPTER ONE

THE TWO
DOCTORS...



DOUBT

IT HAS BEEN NOW ONLY A MATTER OF WEEKS SINCE YOUNG PETER PARKER LEARNED THE BITTER LESSON THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

IN THOSE WEEKS HE HAS PUT TO GOOD USE THE ARACHNID ABILITIES WITH WHICH A CURIOUS FATE HAS GIFTED HIM, FIRST CAPTURING THE BURGLAR WHO KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, THEN SAVING FROM CERTAIN, FIERY DEATH THE CREW OF A NASA SPACE SHUTTLE.

HE HAS EVEN FOUND HIS POWERS CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE EARNING MONEY FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WIDOWED AUNT MAY, WORKING AS A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR NONE OTHER THAN HIS GREATEST DETRACTOR, J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE.

BUT IT WAS ON HIS MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT FOR THAT PAPER THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME A CRUEL DEFEAT WAS INFLICTED UPON THE NEOPHYTE SUPER HERO WHO CALLS HIMSELF

SPIDERMAN ...

JOHN BYRNE
WRITER, PENCILER,
INKER, LETTERER

STEVE BUCCELLATO
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BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BASED ON ORIGINAL
WORKS BY
STAN LEE
AND
STEVE DITKO

TAKE
IT
BACK!

TAKE BACK WHAT YOU
SAID ABOUT SPIDER-
MAN OR I'LL PUNCH
THOSE WORDS DOWN
YOUR SCRAWNY
THROAT!!!





LET IT GO, FLASH! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT PARKER THINKS!

NO! IT MATTERS! HE SAID SPIDER-MAN WAS A COWARD!

AN' HE'S GONNA EAT THOSE WORDS!

WELL, GEEZ, THOMPSON--SPIDER-MAN DID LOOK PRETTY BAD ON THAT VIDEOTAPE THAT DOCTOR OCTOPUS RELEASED!

YOU TOO, DAVIS?! I CAN PUNCH YOU OUT AS EASY AS PARKER, YOU KNOW...!!

LET HIM GO, FLASH! YOUR ARGUMENT IS WITH ME!

OKAY, PARKER! YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?

UHH!





YOU'VE HAD THIS COMING A LONG TIME, THOMPSON!!

HEY...!!!

OH, NO! WHAT AM I DOING...???

I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET IN A FIGHT WITH FLASH! WITH MY SPIDER-STRENGTH I COULD KILL HIM!

HOLY COW! DIDJA SEE THAT???

GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! GOT TO GO SOMEWHERE AND CLEAR MY HEAD!

HE SLAMMED FLASH INTO THAT WALL LIKE A SACK OF RICE!

COME BACK HERE, PARKER! YOU DON'T GET AWAY THAT EASY!

PARKER...!!!

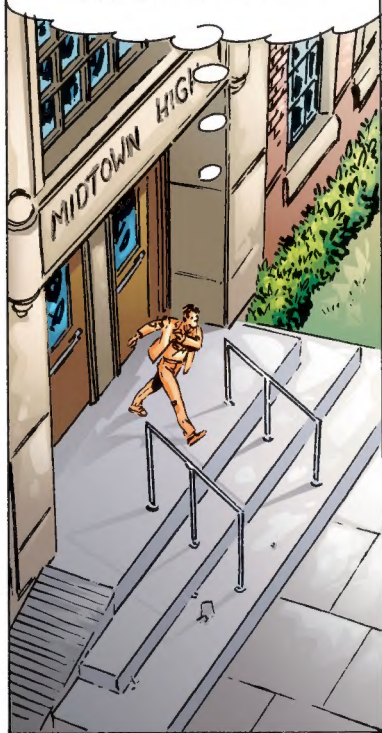
IS THERE SOME PROBLEM, MR. THOMPSON?



MR. MCCOY! COOL IT, EVERYBODY!!

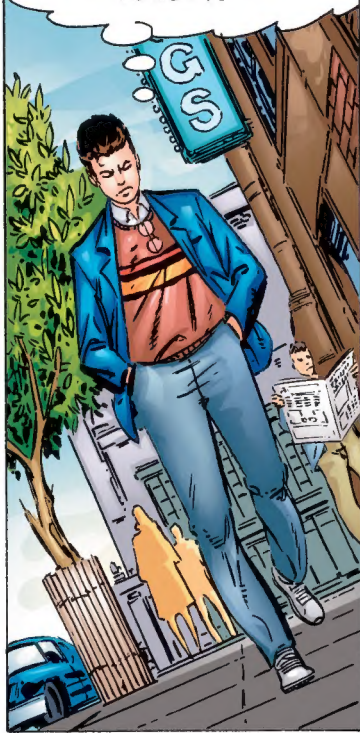
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET THAT HAPPEN! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOADED FLASH LIKE THAT!

BUT WHEN HE GOT INTO HIS DAILY RANT ABOUT HOW COOL SPIDER-MAN IS...



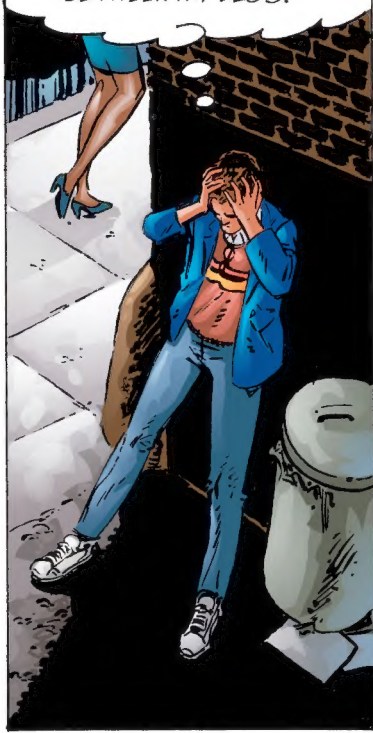
THAT VIDEOTAPE OCTAVIUS LEAKED TO THE PRESS WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

I BUSTED INTO HIS LAB AS MISTER COCKY, AND HE BEAT ME LIKE I WAS NOBODY!



HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME, AS EASILY AS HE TOSSED ME OUT THAT WINDOW...!!

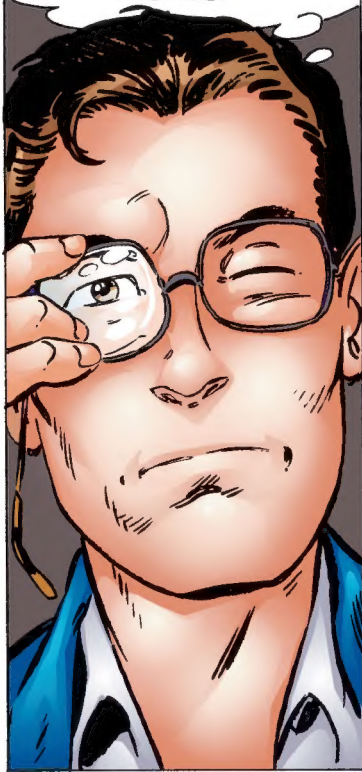
AND WHEN I CAME TO, THE BEST I COULD DO WAS SKULK AWAY WITH MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS!



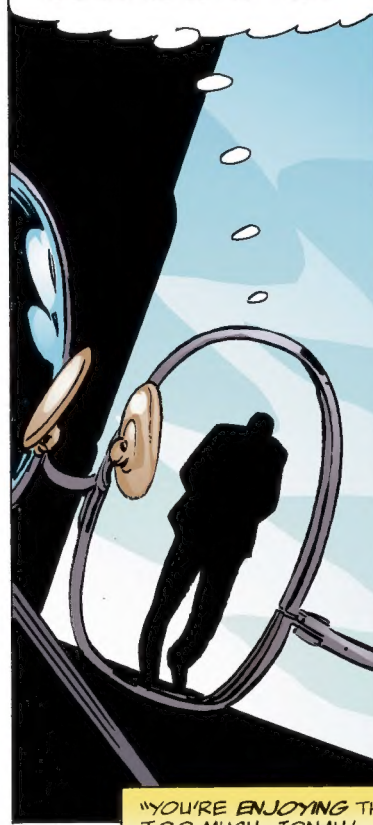
AND ON TOP OF EVERYTHING, THAT STUPID TUSSEL WITH FLASH BROKE MY GLASSES!



FUNNY, THOUGH... I DON'T SEEM TO NEED THEM. THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER MUST HAVE ALSO WORKED ON MY EYE MUSCLES.



NOT THAT THAT MEANS ANYTHING--SINCE I'M THROUGH AS SPIDER-MAN!



"YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS TOO MUCH, JONAH!"



THAT'S AT LEAST THE TWENTIETH TIME YOU'VE PLAYED THAT TAPE!

AND WHY NOT? THAT IDIOT PARKER DIDN'T COME BACK WITH THE PICTURES OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS HE WAS SO SURE HE COULD GET...

...BUT OCTAVIUS HIMSELF RELEASING THIS TAPE OF HIM BEATING SPIDER-MAN IS EVEN BETTER!



DID YOU CHECK THE LEGALITY OF US RUNNING SHOTS FROM IT ON THE FRONT PAGE?

YES -- OUR LEGAL EAGLES SAY THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEM.

BUT YOU DO REALIZE EVERY OTHER PAPER IN THE CITY WILL BE RUNNING THE SAME PICTURES?



I DON'T CARE! I WAS THE FIRST TO POINT OUT THE MENACE OF SPIDER-MAN! IF I CAN'T BE THE FIRST TO SHOW HIM GOING DOWN IN FLAMES, AT LEAST I WANT A PIECE OF IT!

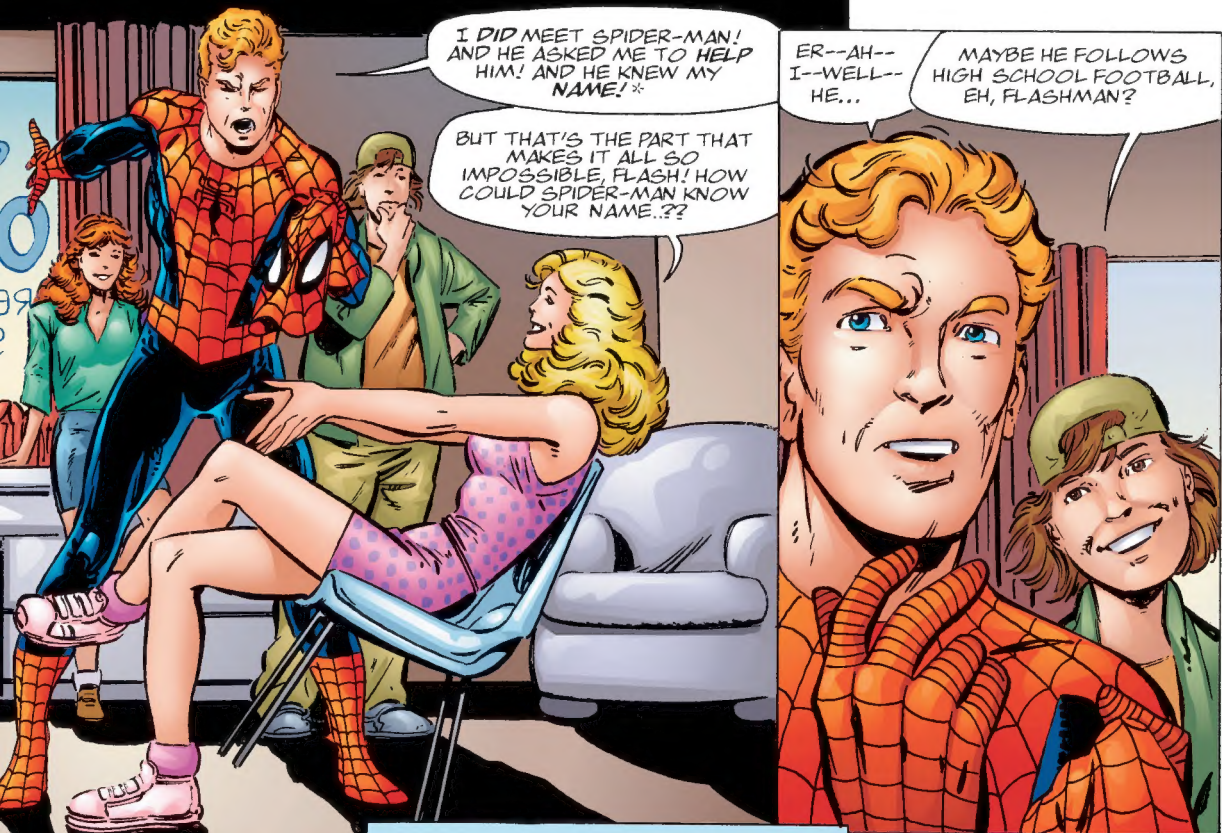
"THIS IS NUTS, FLASH!"



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, LIZ!

PUNY PARKER NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON! SPIDER-MAN IS MY FRIEND, AND I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYONE BAG ON HIM!

OH, YOU'RE NOT REALLY GONNA KEEP ON WITH THAT STUPID STORY ABOUT MEETING SPIDER-MAN IN OL' MAN COBBWELL'S CLASSROOM?



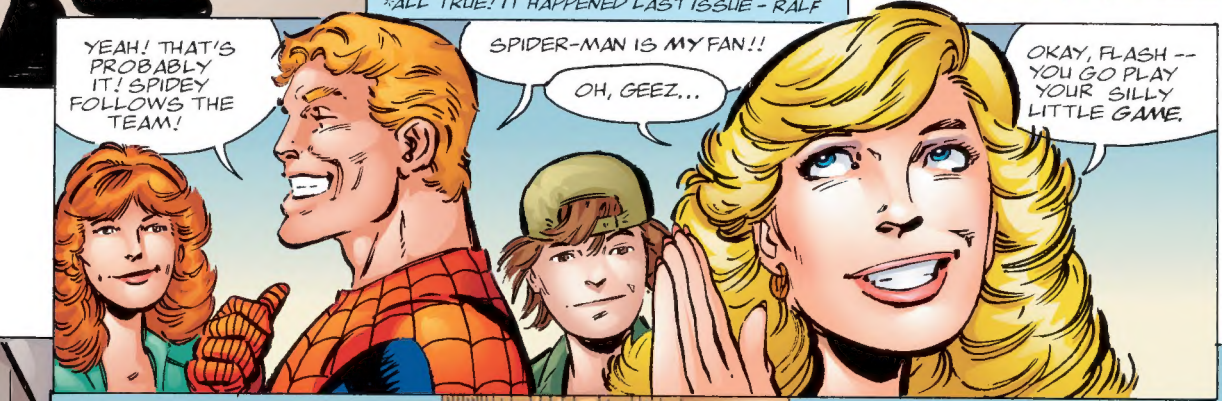
I DID MEET SPIDER-MAN! AND HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM! AND HE KNEW MY NAME! *

ER--AH-- I--WELL-- HE...

MAYBE HE FOLLOWS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL, EH, FLASHMAN?

BUT THAT'S THE PART THAT MAKES IT ALL SO IMPOSSIBLE, FLASH! HOW COULD SPIDER-MAN KNOW YOUR NAME..??

*ALL TRUE! IT HAPPENED LAST ISSUE - RALF

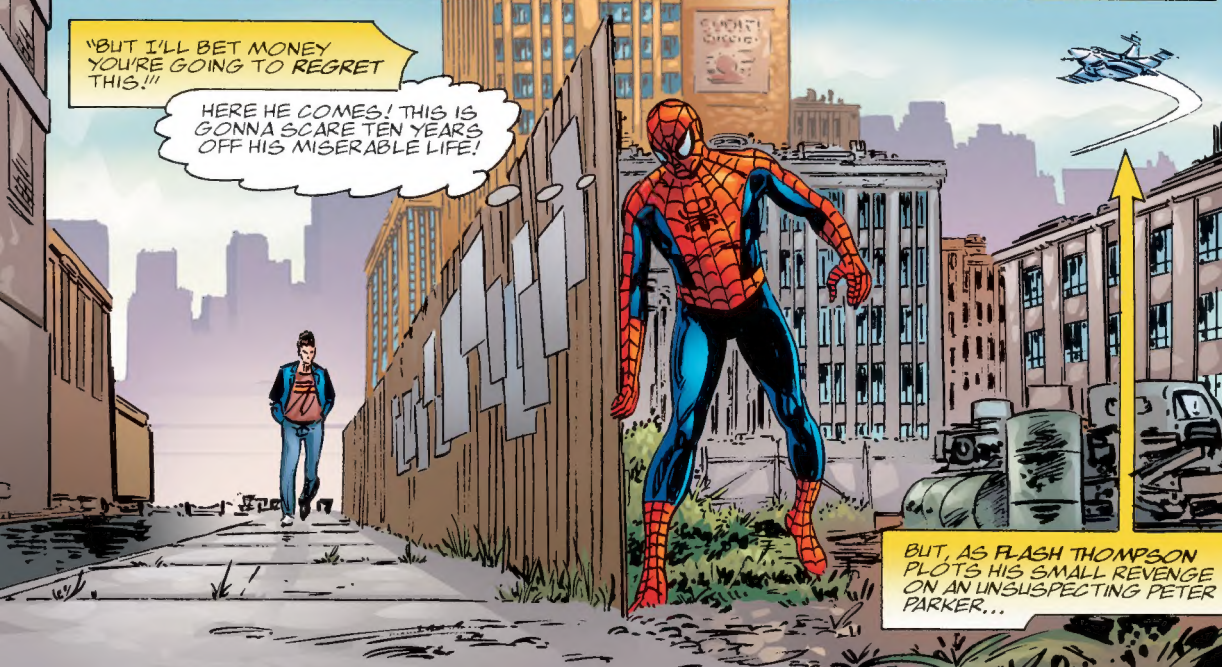


YEAH! THAT'S PROBABLY IT! SPIDEY FOLLOWS THE TEAM!

SPIDER-MAN IS MY FAN!!

OH, GEEZ...

OKAY, FLASH -- YOU GO PLAY YOUR SILLY LITTLE GAME.



'BUT I'LL BET MONEY YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET THIS!!'

HERE HE COMES! THIS IS GONNA SCARE TEN YEARS OFF HIS MISERABLE LIFE!

BUT, AS FLASH THOMPSON PLOTS HIS SMALL REVENGE ON AN UNSUSPECTING PETER PARKER...

...THE LONG FINGER OF
COINCIDENCE REACHES OUT
TO TOUCH THE TEENAGE
RIVALS.

THERE! THE SENSING
DEVICE I CREATED TO
DETECT SPIDER-MAN'S
PECULIAR BIOCHEMISTRY
INDICATES HE IS DIRECTLY
BELOW ME!

I HAVE A VISUAL...
I NEED ONLY TO EXTEND
THE CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY
WHICH SURROUNDS MY
SHIP...

"...AND A SIMPLE TRACTOR
RAY WILL BE ENOUGH TO
BRING THE MEDDLESOME
INTERLOPER ABOARD!"

WHAT
THE
...?!



FUNNY... I WOULD HAVE
SWORN I HEARD FLASH
THOMPSON.

HE MUST BE GETTING TO
ME! NOW I'M HEARING
THINGS!

NUTS! THAT WOULD
BE JUST ONE MORE
THING GONE
WRONG IN MY
LIFE!

HEY, PETER! DID YOU HEAR?
THE GOVERNOR HAS
ASKED THE FANTASTIC FOUR
TO TRY TO CAPTURE
DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

OCK REALLY
PUT HIMSELF
ON THE MAP
BY TRASHING
SPIDER-MAN
SO EASILY!





THE FF SAY THEY'RE BUSY ON ANOTHER CASE, BUT THAT THEY'LL LOOK INTO IT AS SOON AS THEY CAN.

AND THAT GINCHY HUMAN TORCH HAS COME TO TALK TO US TODAY!

SOMEONE SAID HE HAS A VIRUS, SO HE'S NOT UP TO FIGHTING OCTOPUS ON HIS OWN!

A VIRUS! WHAT A FAKER!

HE'S AS MUCH AFRAID OF OCTOPUS AS I AM!



BELIEVE ME, I'D BE OUT THERE HANDING DOC OCK HIS HEAD, IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS VIRUS! IT'S KNOCKED MY SYSTEM FOR A LOOP AND CUT MY FLAME POWER DOWN TO ALMOST NOTHING!

AND, LET ME TELL YOU, ONE OF THE HARDEST LESSONS TO LEARN IN THIS SUPER HERO GIG IS TO SIMPLY RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN LIMITATIONS!

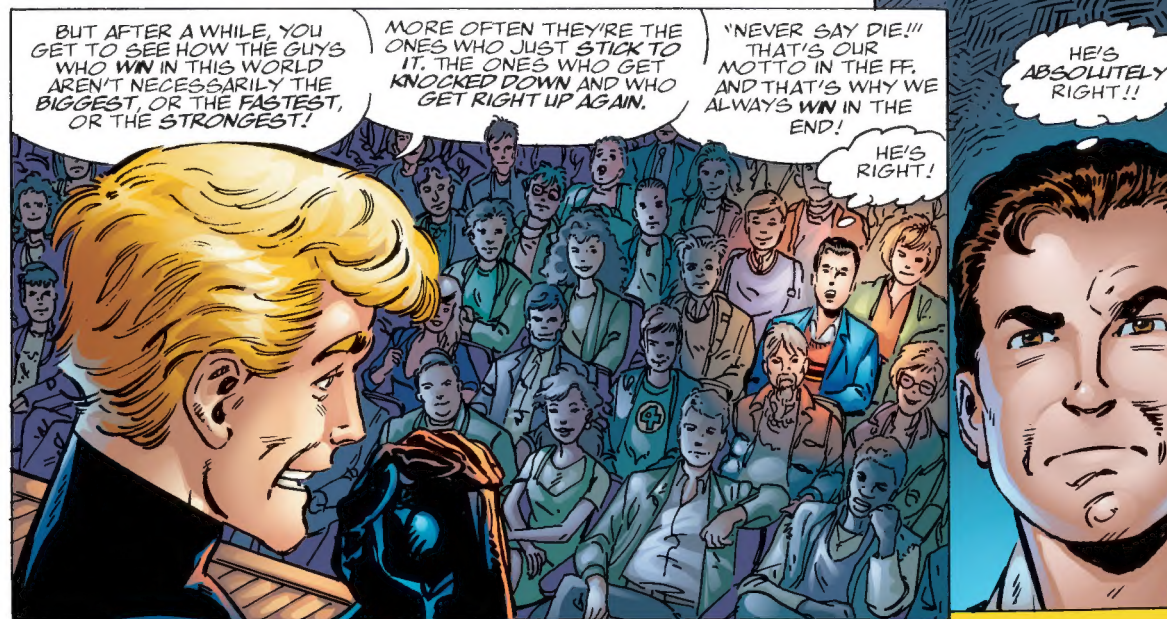


WHEN I FIRST BECAME THE HUMAN TORCH, EARLY LAST YEAR, I THOUGHT I WAS THE HOTTEST THING ON THE BLOCK—NO FUN INTENDED!

BUT AFTER I GOT HANDED MY OWN HEAD A COUPLE OF TIMES BY THE LIKES OF DOCTOR DOOM AND SUB-MARINER, I WENT THROUGH A PERIOD OF DOUBT.

I GOT TO THINKING MAYBE I WASN'T UP TO THE JOB. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST COVER MY HEAD AND SKULK AWAY, AND QUIT BEING THE TORCH AT ALL.

HOLY...! IT--IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S TALKING DIRECTLY TO ME!



BUT AFTER A WHILE, YOU GET TO SEE HOW THE GUYS WHO WIN IN THIS WORLD AREN'T NECESSARILY THE BIGGEST, OR THE FASTEST, OR THE STRONGEST!

MORE OFTEN THEY'RE THE ONES WHO JUST STICK TO IT. THE ONES WHO GET KNOCKED DOWN AND WHO GET RIGHT UP AGAIN.

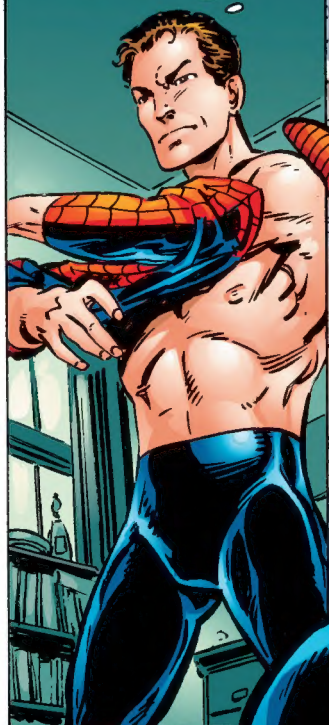
"NEVER SAY DIE!" THAT'S OUR MOTTO IN THE FF. AND THAT'S WHY WE ALWAYS WIN IN THE END!

HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!!

HE'S RIGHT!

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

OCK KNOCKED THE
STUFFING OUT OF ME
BECAUSE I GOT COCKY
AGAIN. I LET EGO GET IN
THE WAY OF SENSE.



I WON'T
DO THAT
AGAIN!

"AND THIS TIME SPIDER-MAN WON'T BE THE ONE WHO LOSES!"

I GOT PAST THE OUTER SECURITY PERIMETER AS EASILY AS I DID TWO NIGHTS AGO.

OBVIOUSLY, OCTAVIUS ISN'T EXPECTING ME BACK! HE HASN'T MODIFIED HIS DEFENSES TO MATCH MY SPECIAL ABILITIES!



"THIS MAY BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!!!"

EH..?

WHAT'S THAT ON THE SECTOR FOUR MONITOR? SPIDER-MAN AGAIN?

THE FOOL!

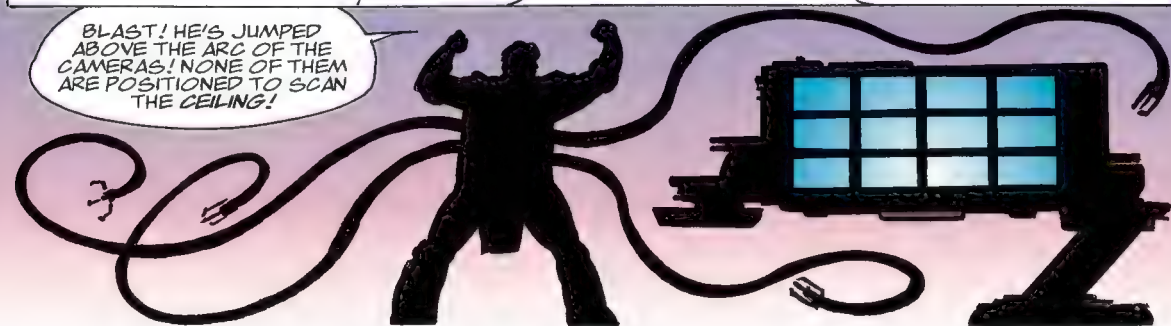
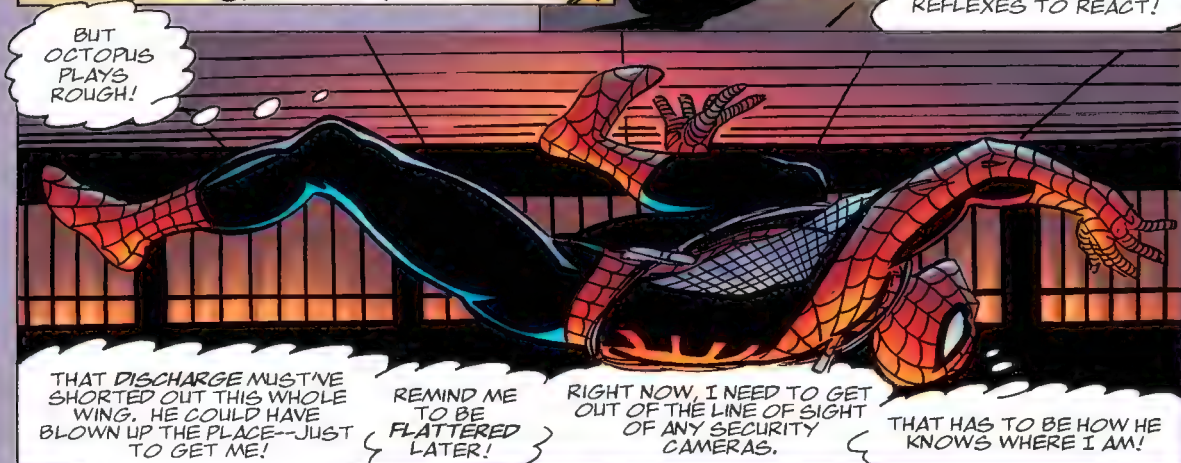


"THIS TIME I WILL FINISH HIM FOR GOOD!!!"

NNRRRRRRR

UH... OH...





BAH! THIS
IS WASTING
MY TIME!

I'LL FIND HIM AND THIS TIME
I WILL MAKE SURE HE'S
DEAD!



UNLESS OCTAVIUS HAS
MOVED HIS CENTRAL HQ
FROM WHERE IT WAS LAST
TIME, I SHOULD BE
ALMOST AT THE DOOR.

TIME TO MAKE MYSELF A
LITTLE MORE OBVIOUS, AND
LURE HIM OUT!



HEL-LO!

TIME FOR THE SUDDEN DEATH PLAY!

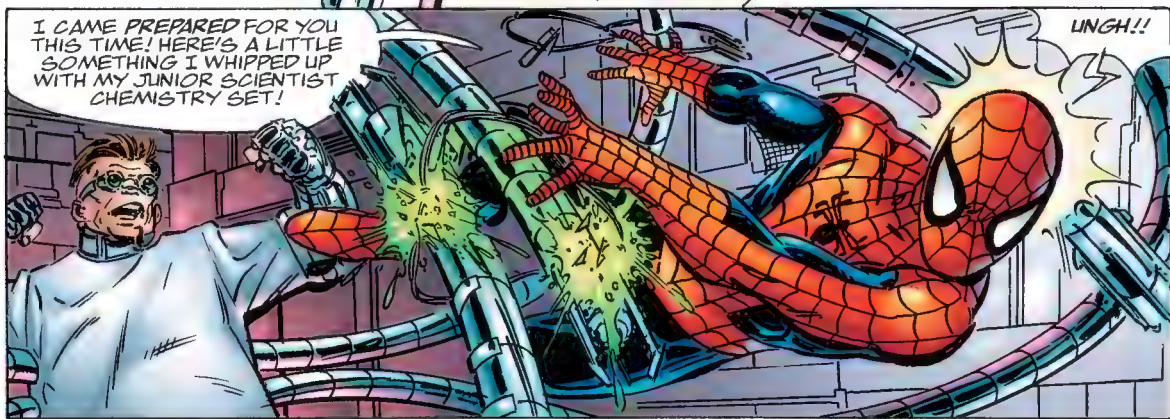




YOU ARE FAST, SPIDER-MAN!

BUT MY ROBOT ARMS MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT!

PRETTY MUCH WHAT I'M COUNTING ON, CHUCKLES!



I CAME PREPARED FOR YOU THIS TIME! HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING I WHIPPED UP WITH MY JUNIOR SCIENTIST CHEMISTRY SET!

UNGH!!



AMAZING! YOU HAVE MIXED SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL THAT FUSES THE METAL OF MY CLAWS!

I WILL CONFESS TO BEING IMPRESSED, SPIDER-MAN! IT WOULD TAKE A KEEN INTELLECT TO CREATE SUCH A THING!



IT SADDENS ME TO HAVE TO DESTROY SUCH A MIND!

HEY, DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOURSELF SAD, OCK!



THAT'S
MY
JOB!

AHK! YOUR ACCURSED
WEBBING!



BUT EVEN IF I CANNOT SEE
YOU, I CAN STILL CRUSH YOU
AGAINST MY CHEST PLATE!

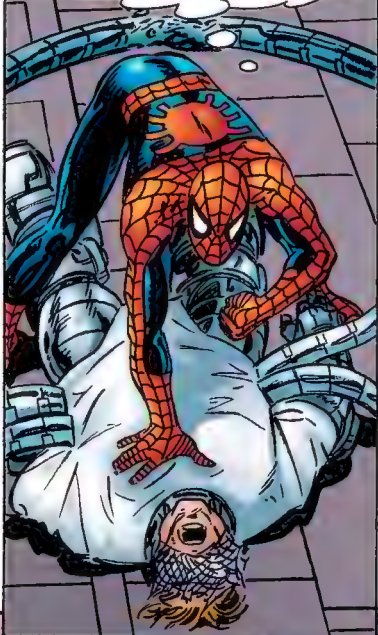
UHH! HEY, I LOVE YOU TOO,
OCKY-POO...



...BUT I NEVER GET THIS
COZY ON THE FIRST DATE!

HE'S DOWN!
INSIDE THE METAL HE'S JUST A NORMAL MAN!

MY PUNCH HAS PUT HIM OUT FOR HOURS!



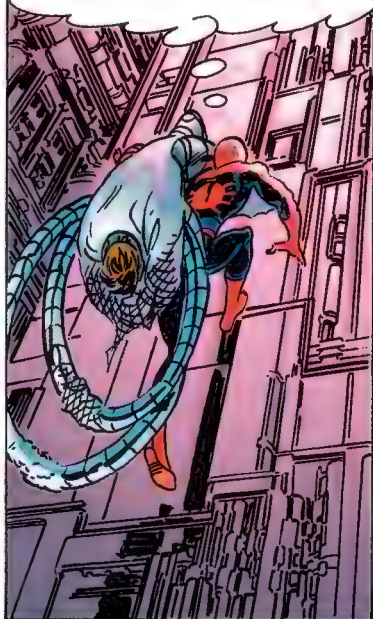
SHOULDN'T BE TOO PROUD OF MYSELF, THOUGH. THE SAME ACCIDENT THAT FUSED HIS ARMS TO HIS BODY GAVE ME MY SPIDER POWERS.

ONLY THE TINIEST TWIST OF FATE, AND IT MIGHT BE ME LYING THERE, AND OCK WHO'S THE SUPER HERO!



HUH! SUPER HERO! I GUESS I NEVER QUITE PUT THAT TOGETHER, DID I?

I WENT AFTER THE VULTURE BECAUSE I WANTED THE MONEY JAMESON WAS OFFERING FOR PICTURES...



...AND I CAME HERE FOR THE SAME REASON.

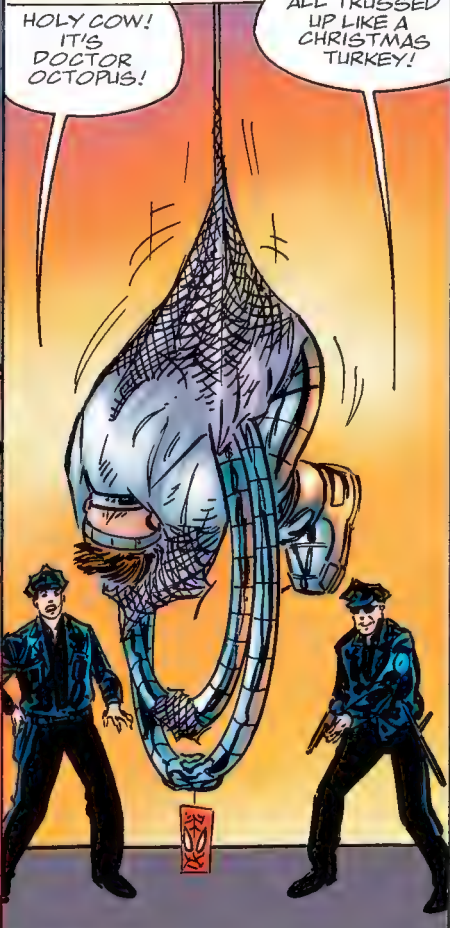
BUT I CAME BACK BECAUSE I HAD TO, BECAUSE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!



"KINDA MAKES ME FEEL GOOD ABOUT MYSELF FOR ONCE!"

HOLY COW!
IT'S DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

ALL TRUSSED UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TURKEY!



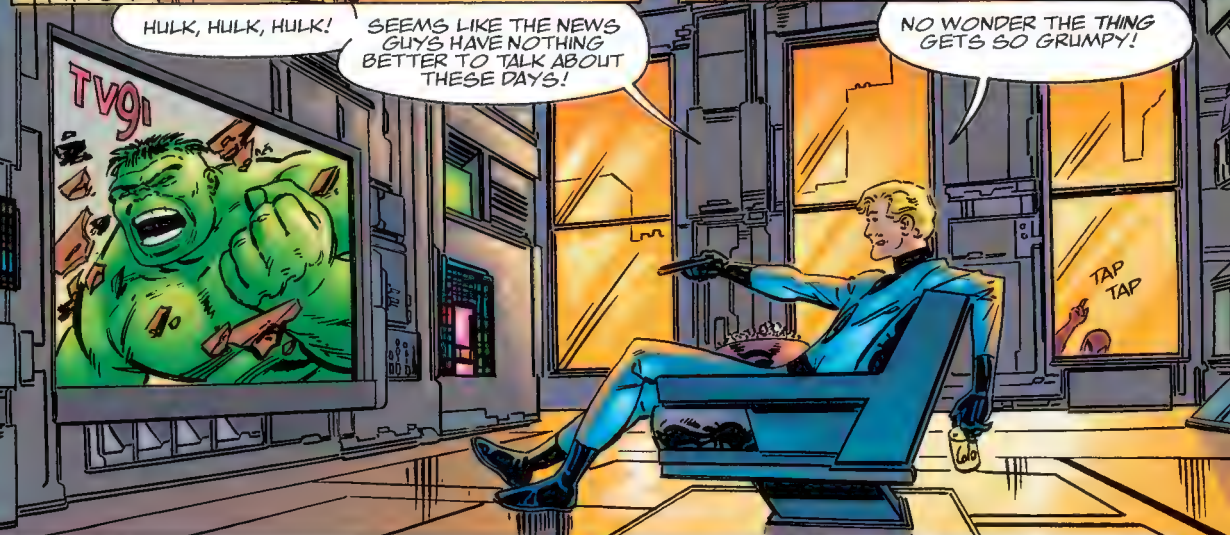


A JOB WELL DONE, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!

AND THERE'S ONE GUY I REALLY NEED TO THANK FOR PUTTING MY HEAD BACK ON STRAIGHT!



I JUST HOPE HE'S HOME!



HULK, HULK, HULK!

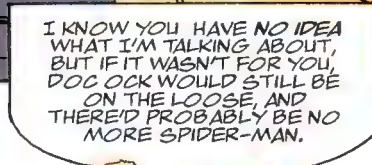
SEEMS LIKE THE NEWS GUYS HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO TALK ABOUT THESE DAYS!

NO WONDER THE THING GETS SO GRUMPY!



WHAT IN...? SPIDER-MAN? IF YOU'VE COME LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, PAL...

NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH, MATCHHEAD.

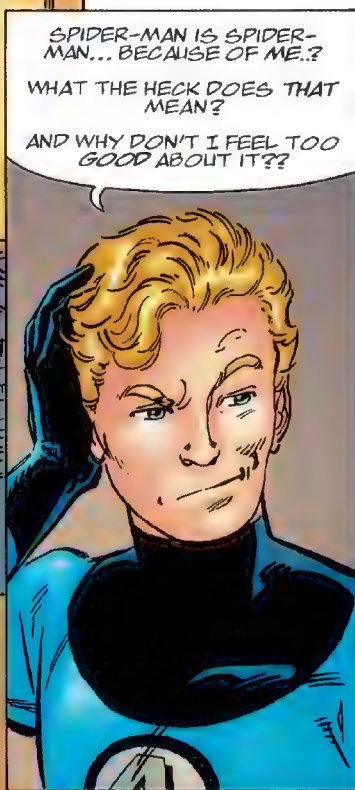


I KNOW YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, BUT IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, DOC OCK WOULD STILL BE ON THE LOOSE, AND THERE'D PROBABLY BE NO MORE SPIDER-MAN.

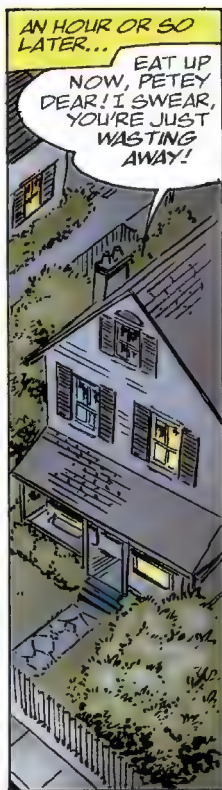


YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND
BUT I JUST WANTED TO SAY
"THANKS"!!

HUH..?



SPIDER-MAN IS SPIDER-
MAN... BECAUSE OF ME..?
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT
MEAN?
AND WHY DON'T I FEEL TOO
GOOD ABOUT IT??



AN HOUR OR SO
LATER...
EAT UP
NOW, PETEY
DEAR! I SWEAR,
YOU'RE JUST
WASTING
AWAY!



HEH HEH! I'VE PACKED ON A
GOOD TEN POUNDS OF
SOLID MUSCLE SINCE I
BECAME SPIDER-MAN...

...BUT AUNT MAY WILL NEVER
NOTICE, BLESS HER!

ATTENTION! ATTENTION,
PEOPLE OF NEW YORK!



WHAT
THE..?!!

DOCTOR
DOOM...!!

AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE
CAPTURED THE COSTUMED
DAREDEVIL YOU CALL
SPIDER-MAN.





MY REASONS FOR DOING SO ARE SIMPLE. I KNOW MY ENEMIES VERY WELL!

AND I NOW ORDER THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO DISBAND AND SURRENDER TO ME IN ONE HOUR...

...OR KNOW THAT THE DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN WILL BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY!

OH, THAT AWFUL MAN! BUT, AT LEAST IT'S JUST SPIDER-MAN HE'S THREATENING! ACCORDING TO MR. JAMESON HE'S JUST AS BAD AS DOCTOR DOOM!

ER...

DRINKING

HELLO..?

LIZ ALLAN..? CALLING ME..?

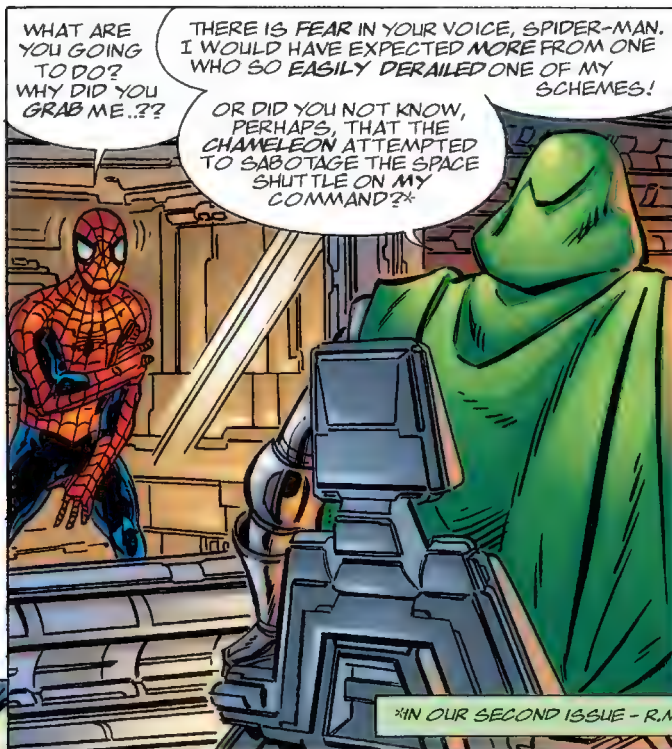
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, PARKER! I LISTEN... I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS...

FLASH!

THAT IDIOT! I'LL BET THAT WAS HIM I HEARD BEHIND THE FENCE THIS MORNING!

AND DOCTOR DOOM MUST HAVE SNAGGED HIM, BECAUSE WE WERE SO CLOSE TOGETHER. WHATEVER DEVICE DOOM WAS USING TO LOOK FOR ME GOT CONFUSED BY OUR PROXIMITY!

BIG QUESTION NOW, THOUGH...

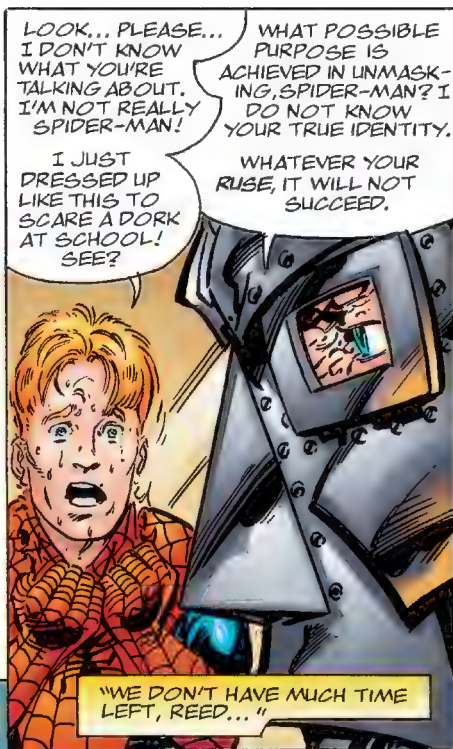


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WHY DID YOU GRAB ME...??

THERE IS FEAR IN YOUR VOICE, SPIDER-MAN. I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED MORE FROM ONE WHO SO EASILY DERAILED ONE OF MY SCHEMES!

OR DID YOU NOT KNOW, PERHAPS, THAT THE CHAMELEON ATTEMPTED TO SABOTAGE THE SPACE SHUTTLE ON MY COMMAND?*

*IN OUR SECOND ISSUE - R.M.



LOOK... PLEASE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I'M NOT REALLY SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT POSSIBLE PURPOSE IS ACHIEVED IN UNMASKING SPIDER-MAN? I DO NOT KNOW YOUR TRUE IDENTITY.

I JUST DRESSED UP LIKE THIS TO SCARE A DORK AT SCHOOL! SEE?

WHATEVER YOUR RUSE, IT WILL NOT SUCCEED.

"WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, REED..."



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

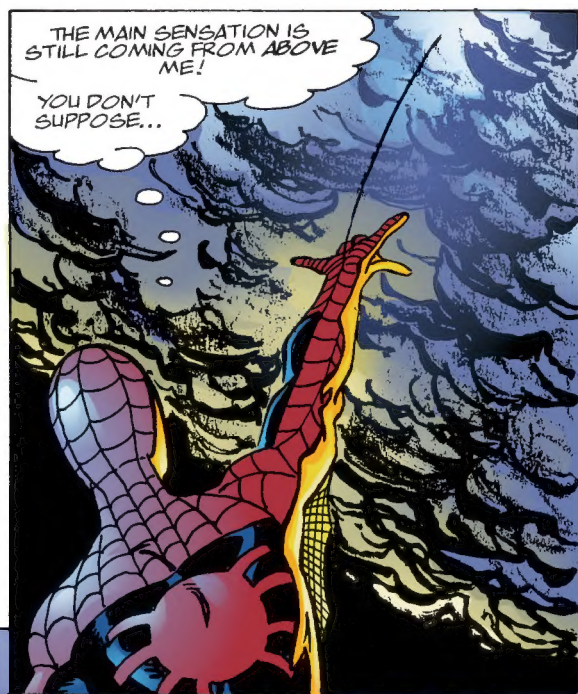
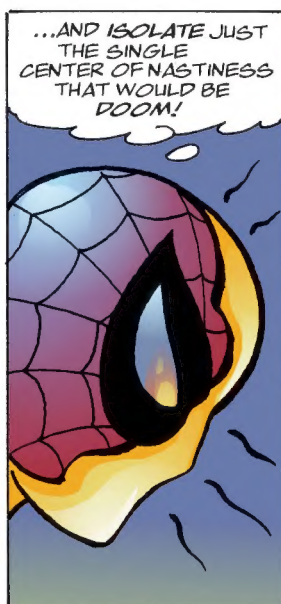
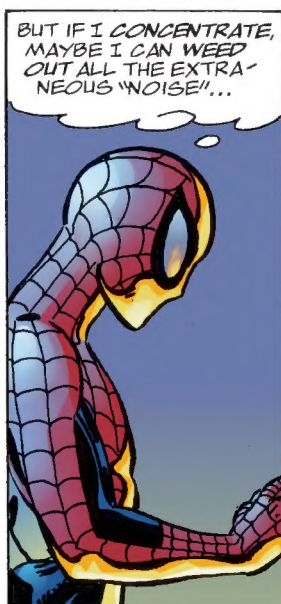
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO WE, SUE?

IF WE DO NOT ACT, AND QUICKLY, DOOM WILL CERTAINLY KEEP HIS WORD AND KILL SPIDER-MAN!

YEAH -- TRUST HIM TA BE AN HONORABLE CREEP!

SEEMS WEIRD, BUT AFTER WHAT SPIDER-MAN SAID TO ME TODAY... I FEEL KINDA RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOPE!





AND JUST THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE...

DOOMSY!
I'M
HO-OOME!

AHHH!! THE FLOOR IS ELECTRIFIED!!

NOT THE WHOLE FLOOR, SPIDER-MAN, JUST THE AREA WHERE MY OPEN HATCH INDUCED YOU TO LAND.

AND NOW, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU ARE GOING TO AID ME IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

NEXT: OKAY, OKAY! THIS IS ALL SET IN THE PAST, SO YOU KNOW OUR HERO ISN'T GOING TO DIE OR HELP KILL THE FF., BUT JOIN US ANYWAY, TO SEE HOW SPIDEY ESCAPES THIS TRAP, AND TO WITNESS HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE LOATHSOME LIZARD!

IT'S ALL HERE IN 30 DAYS!



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE